REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended as set forth above. Claims 4-5, 15 and 20-21 are cancelled. Claims 22-25 are new. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as more fully set forth below.

I.   Examiner Interview Dated March 11, 2008

An interview was held on March 11, 2008. Applicants believe that an agreement was reached that the current changes overcome the cited references. Examiner Dailey requested that applicants' attorney point out a few portions of the specification that support the claim amendments. See page 7, line 20 – page 8, line 9; and page 10, line 19 – page 11, line 20.

II.   Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-14, 16-17 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,181,781 issued to Porter et al. (hereinafter "Porter") in view of "Ring Central Products: PhoneWorks 2002" (hereinafter "PhoneWorks"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

As background, and not for limiting the claims in any manner, the specification recites an example as follows:

> Notification server 304 provides a link between the identifier associated with the event and the PUID associated with the subscriber. The telephone carrier uses the identifier, such as the subscriber's phone number, to identify an event. Notification server 304 uses the PUID to identify the subscriber. Notification server 304 is not aware of the subscriber associated with the identifier. When an event occurs at voice mail switch 308, notification server 304 correlates the identifier associated with the event to the corresponding PUID and then forwards the event to the PUID. Likewise, the telephone carrier does not store any PUID information. Thus, notification server 304 can bridge voice mail switch 308 to web service interface 302 by mapping the subscriber's telephone number to the corresponding PUID.
>
> The telephone carrier and web service interface 302 each recognize the subscriber via different string values, i.e., a phone number and a PUID. This feature

provides the subscriber with flexibility in customizing the alerts service because notification server 304 can map one or more phone numbers to one or more PUIDs. For example, the subscriber can receive alerts at one location for events occurring at many different voice mail switches. Likewise, a subscriber can receive the same alert at more than one location. Furthermore, multiple subscribers can be notified of the same event. For example, an entire family can be simultaneously notified of voice mail messages left at their residential line.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the following combination of features that is not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references:

a plurality of voice mail switches, wherein each voice mail switch is configured to receive an event and a mailbox identifier associated with the event; and

a notification server, coupled to the plurality of voice mail switches, wherein the notification server is configured to perform actions including:

obtaining a personal unique identifier (PUID) that identifies a notification channel and a subscriber identifier for the subscriber registered with the notification server, wherein the PUID maps the subscriber identifier to a plurality of mailbox identifiers, wherein at least one of the plurality of mailbox identifiers is associated with a different voice mail switch than the other of the plurality of mailbox identifiers;

receiving an event and a mailbox identifier from at least one of the plurality of voice mail switches;

correlating the mailbox identifier associated with the event with the PUID, wherein the PUID identifies the subscriber identifier and the notification channel;

generating an alert; and

sending the alert to the subscriber indicating that the event occurred according to the notification channel indicated by the PUID.

Applicants assert that the cited references do not teach or otherwise suggest the above combination of features. The Office Action states that "Porter's 'mailbox number' reads on the PUID." (Office Action at p. 3). Porter teaches a system for remotely accessing a mailbox by the Internet. The user enters a URL of the voice mail system and the server associated with the URL

sends a HTML file to the user, as shown in Fig. 4. The user then enters a mailbox number to access the mailbox. When the user wants to access another mailbox associated with a different phone, the user must start the process over. With regard to Ring Central, Ring Central teaches a software package for a voice over IP telephone. The software package is integrated with Microsoft Outlook and Outlook Express. The software allows for telephone answering, fax, fax editing and notification functionality. Ring Central teaches easy to customize notification and forwarding rules. Ring Central further teaches that the software allows a user to notify a pager or call a cell phone when the user receives an email, fax or voice message. However, neither reference teaches or otherwise suggests "obtaining a personal unique identifier (PUID) that identifies a notification channel and a subscriber identifier for the subscriber registered with the notification server, wherein the PUID maps the subscriber identifier to a plurality of mailbox identifiers, wherein at least one of the plurality of mailbox identifiers is associated with a different voice mail switch than the other plurality of mailbox identifiers." As indicated, this feature of the claim has been amended to distinguish the PUID from the mailbox identifier. Accordingly, applicants assert that the Examiner's contention that the mailbox number reads on the PUID no longer has merit. Moreover, applicants can find no teaching or suggestion in either of the references of "correlating the mailbox identifier associated with the event with the PUID, wherein the PUID identifies the subscriber identifier and the notification channel." In this feature, the PUID identifies the notification channel. This feature is not taught in either of the references. Moreover, the claim has been amended to recite "sending the alert to the subscriber indicating that the event occurred according to the notification channel indicated by the PUID." Again, the fact that the notification channel is indicated by the PUID is not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references. Accordingly, applicants assert that independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited references.

Independent claim 13 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references:

> receiving an event and an identifier associated with the event at one of a plurality
> of voice mail switches;

forwarding the event and the identifier to a notification server associated with the plurality of voice mail switches;

generating, on the notification server, a personal unique identifier (PUID) that identifies a subscriber registered with the notification server, a registered mailbox, and a notification channel;

correlating the identifier associated with the event to the registered mailbox in order to identify the PUID;

generating an alert; and

sending the alert to the subscriber indicating that the event occurred in accordance with the identified notification channel.

The above combination of features is not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references. As more fully set forth above in support of independent claim 1, neither reference teaches or otherwise suggests "generating, on the notification server, a personal unique identifier (PUID) that identifies a subscriber registered with the notification server, a registered mailbox, and a notification channel." Furthermore, neither reference teaches or otherwise suggests "correlating the identifier associated with the event to the registered mailbox in order to identify the PUID." Also, applicants can find no teaching or suggestion of "sending the alert to the subscriber indicating that the event occurred in accordance with the identified notification channel." As previously stated, contrary to the contentions set forth in the Office Action, the PUID is distinct from the mailbox number. Accordingly, applicants assert that independent claim 13 is allowable over the cited references.

New independent claim 22 includes the following combination of features that are not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references:

receiving mailbox registration information for a plurality of mailboxes, wherein at least one of the plurality of mailboxes is associated with a different messaging switch than the other of the plurality of mailboxes;

receiving user registration information, wherein the user registration information includes a subscriber identifier and at least one delivery channel;

storing, on a notification server, the mailbox registration information and the user registration information, wherein a personal unique identifier (PUID) is generated on the notification server to correlate the mailbox registration information with the user registration information;

receiving, on the notification server, a message event association with a mailbox identifier that identifies at least one of the plurality of mailboxes associated with the mailbox registration information;

matching, on the notification server, the mailbox identifier to the mailbox registration information to identify the generated PUID associated with the mailbox registration information;

accessing the user registration information associated with the generated PUID to identify the at least one delivery channel associated with the user registration information;

generating an alert on the notification server that identifies the messaging event; and

sending the alert via the at least one communication channel indicated in the user registration information that is identified by the generated PUID.

Applicants assert that the above combination of features are not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references. As indicated in the above independent claim, the PUID is separate and distinct from the mailbox registration information. Neither reference teaches or otherwise suggests the interaction between the various identifiers set forth in independent claim 22. Accordingly, applicants assert that new independent claim 22 is allowable over the cited references.

With regard to the dependent claims, the dependent claims include features that are not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references. Furthermore, those claims ultimately depend from the independent claims set forth above. As such, they should be found allowable for at least those same reason.

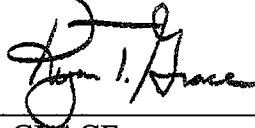## III. Request for Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is

respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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